

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 006088
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EA:JBADER

APPROVED BY: EA:JBADER

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION: EA ONLY

-----107922 101917Z /46

P 101836Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006088

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG FROM PEKING
DTD 10 JAN 1978 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OREP (CODEL CRANSTON), CH US UR TW

SUBJ: CODEL CRANSTON'S MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS

REF: KA) PEKING 66, (B) PEKING 67, (C) PEKING 80

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF MEETINGS BETWEEN CODEL CRANSTON AND
VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA
AND CPIFA PRESIDENT HAO TE-CHING JANUARY 5, 6 AND 7 CLOSELY
PARALLELED DISCUSSIONS HELD IN PREVIOUS WEEK WITH SENATOR
KENNEDY. THE CHINESE AVOIDED SOME OF THEIR MORE PRICKLY
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POLEMICS AND GENERALLY PROVIDED MEASURED AND LOW KEY
RESPONSES TO THE CODEL'S QUESTIONS EVEN IN SENSITIVE AREAS.
INALL THREE SESSIONS THE CHINESE TALKED AT GREAT LENGTH
EITHER IN OPENING DISCUSSIONS OR IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS AS
IF TO FILIBUSTER AND AVOID MORE PAINFUL SUBJECTS.

2. SEVERAL CODEL MEMBERS MADE FORCEFUL STATEMENTS

REGARDING US RESOLVE TO LIVE UP TO OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. CHINESE REACTION SEEMED LOWER KEY THAN USUAL AND, AS WAS THE CASE DURING SENATOR KENNEDY'S TALKS, THEY SHOWED SOMEWHAT GREATER SOPHISTICATION IN DEALING WITH AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. ALTHOUGH VICE PREMIER TENG AND THE OTHERS SCOFFED AT THE HOPE FOR ANY MEANINGFUL RESULTS FROM OUR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, EVEN IN THIS AREA, WHERE THE CHINESE HAVE OFTEN BEEN PARTICULARLY ANTAGONISTIC, THEY SEEMED TO TAKE A MORE MEASURED LINE THAN USUAL.

3. NORMALIZATION WAS COVERED IN ALL THREE MEETINGS. BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG AND VICE PREMIER TENG LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE CHINESE POSITION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US ARE A POLITICAL AND NOT A DIPLOMATIC MATTER, AND THAT THE US SHOULD CONSIDER THIS RELATIONSHIP FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ITS LONG TERM STRATEGIC INTERESTS. TENG USED SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME LANGUAGE IN REFERRING TO NORMALIZATION AND THEN, WHEN ASKED BY THE CODEL IF HE HAD ANY MESSAGE WHICH HE WISHED TO CONVEY TO AMERICAN LEADERS AGAIN RESTATED THIS SAME POSITION. WE PRESUME HE MEANT THAT THE FUTURE STRATEGIC BENEFITS TO THE US OF A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRC ARE IMPORTANT IN COMBATING SOVIET AGGRESSION AND THAT WE SHOULD SURMOUNT THE DIPLOMATIC HURDLE OF TAIWAN FOR THOSE LARGER AND MORE
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IMPORTANT FUTURE INTERESTS.

4. IN ALL THREE DISCUSSIONS PLUS THAT WITH LI CHIANG, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, THE CHINESE DISPLAYED SENSITIVITY REGARDING US EXPORT CONTROLS. HAO TE-CHING AND LI CHIANG MENTIONED COMPUTER SALES. TENG SAID, "SOMETIMES WE NEED THINGS AND YOU WON'T GIVE THEM TO US." FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG SPECIFICALLY BROUGHT UP FORMER DEFENSE DEPUTY SECRETARY PACKAD'S STATEMENT TO HIM REGARDING "A CERTAIN COMPUTER WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT GRANTED PERMISSION FOR EXPORT. DEAN UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE006088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA:JBADER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-0096
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780180/aaaacphz.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74a6eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 PEKING 66, 78 PEKING 67, 78 PEKING 80
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3799969
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL CRANSTON'S MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS
TAGS: OREP, US, JA, CH, TW, (CRANSTON, ALAN)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74a6eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014